

CLAIMS

1. A vacuum insulated refrigerator cabinet comprising an evacuation system for evacuating an insulation space (10, 12) of the cabinet when pressure inside such space is higher than a predetermined value, characterised in that it presents sensor means comprising a temperature sensor (14) and a heater (18) both located in a portion of the evacuation system (10, 12) and a control system (16) for activating the heater (18) according to a predetermined heating cycle and for receiving a signal from the temperature sensor (14), such control system being able to provide the evacuation system with a signal related to the insulation level within the insulation space.
2. A vacuum insulated refrigerator cabinet according to claim 1, characterised in that the temperature sensor (14) and the heater (18) are both located within the insulation space (10, 12).
3. A vacuum insulated refrigerator cabinet according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the temperature sensor (14) and the heater (18) are the same wire used either for heating purpose or for temperature measurement.
4. A vacuum insulated refrigerator cabinet according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the temperature sensor (14) and the heater (18) are placed centrally in the insulation space (10, 12)
5. A vacuum insulated refrigerator cabinet according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the heating cycle of the heater (18) comprises a series of heating pulses.
6. Method for assessing the thermal conductivity of an insulation space (10, 12) of a vacuum insulated refrigerator cabinet, characterised in that it comprises the steps of providing a predetermined amount of heat inside the insulation space (10, 12), and measuring temperature in the proximity of the zone where heat has been provided in order to have an indication on how temperature decreases in such zone, the faster being the decrease vs. time, the higher being thermal conductivity of the insulation space.

7. Method according to claim 3, characterised in that heat is provided inside the insulation space in a series of pulses.